This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 – 37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium bearing a computer readable representation of an object, wherein said object comprises primitive and non-primitive members, and wherein said object is serialized for retrieval by computer hardware, the computer readable representation comprising:

~~at least one~~ a single binary fragment associated with said object ~~comprising~~ that comprises both a binary fragment header and a binary fragment payload;

wherein the binary fragment header comprises a type field and a length field;

wherein the type field indicates the fragment is a binary fragment;

wherein the length field indicates a length of the binary fragment payload;

wherein the payload comprises a plurality of primitive data members in storage engine record format;

wherein said plurality of primitive data members are all of the primitive data members of the object; and

at least one additional fragment comprising at least one non-primitive member of the object.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein said at least one additional fragment comprises:

at least one Large Object (LOB) fragment comprising a LOB fragment header and a LOB fragment payload;

wherein the LOB header comprises a LOB type field, a value type field, and a LOB length field;

wherein the LOB type field indicates the LOB fragment is a LOB fragment;

wherein the value type field indicates whether the LOB fragment payload comprises an inline LOB or a pointer to a LOB location;

wherein the LOB length field indicates ~~the~~ a length of the LOB fragment payload.

41. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the LOB fragment payload comprises a LOB.

42. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the LOB fragment payload comprises a pointer to a LOB location.

43. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the value type field indicates whether the LOB fragment payload comprises an inline LOB, a pointer to a LOB location, or a cell reference.

44. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 38, further comprising a terminator fragment that marks the end of the object, said terminator fragment comprising a terminator type field indicating the terminator fragment is a terminator fragment.

45. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein said at least one additional fragment comprises:

a collection start fragment comprising a collection start header;

wherein the collection start header comprises a collection start type field and a bit field;

wherein the collection start type field indicates the collection start fragment is a collection start fragment;

wherein the bit field indicates whether an order exists among a plurality of collection element fragments.

46. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 45, further comprising:

at least one collection element fragment comprising a collection element header and collection element payload;

wherein the collection element header comprises a collection element type field and a collection element length field;

wherein the collection element type field indicates the collection element fragment is a collection element fragment;

wherein the collection element length field indicates the a length of the collection element payload.

47. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 46, wherein the collection element payload comprises a data member in a collection of data members corresponding to said collection start fragment.

48. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 46, wherein the collection element header further comprises a collection element locator field that provides a unique location of a data member in a collection of data members.

49. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium bearing a computer readable representation of an object that is serialized for efficient retrieval by computer hardware, the computer readable representation comprising:

at least one Large Object (LOB) fragment comprising a LOB fragment header and a LOB fragment payload;

wherein the LOB header comprises a LOB type field, a value type field, and a LOB length field;

wherein the LOB type field indicates the LOB fragment is a LOB fragment;

wherein the value type field indicates whether the LOB fragment payload comprises an inline LOB or a pointer to a LOB location;

wherein the LOB length field indicates [[the]] a length of the LOB fragment payload;

a collection start fragment comprising a collection start header;

wherein the collection start header comprises a collection start type field and a bit field;

wherein the collection start type field indicates the collection start fragment is a collection start fragment;

wherein the bit field indicates whether an order exists among a plurality of collection element fragments.

50-53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 49, further comprising:

a collection element fragment comprising a collection element header and collection element payload;

wherein the collection element header comprises a collection element type field and a collection element length field;

wherein the collection element type field indicates the collection element fragment is a collection element fragment;

wherein the collection element length field indicates [[the]] a length of the collection element payload.

55. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium bearing a computer readable representation of an object that is serialized for efficient retrieval by computer hardware, the computer readable representation comprising:

a collection start fragment comprising a collection start header;

wherein the collection start header comprises a collection start type field and a bit field;

wherein the collection start type field indicates the collection start fragment is a collection start fragment;

wherein the bit field indicates whether an order exists among a plurality of collection element fragments;

at least one collection element fragment comprising a collection element header and collection element payload;

wherein the collection element header comprises a collection element type field and a collection element length field;

wherein the collection element type field indicates the collection element fragment is a collection element fragment;

wherein the collection element length field indicates the a length of the collection element payload.

56. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 55, wherein the collection element payload comprises a data member in a collection of data members corresponding to said collection start fragment.

57. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 55, wherein the collection element header further comprises a collection element locator field that provides a unique location of a data member in a collection of data members.

58. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium bearing a computer readable representation of an object that is serialized for efficient retrieval by computer hardware, the computer readable representation comprising:

~~at least one~~ a single binary fragment associated with said object ~~comprising~~ that comprises both a binary fragment header and a binary fragment payload;

wherein the binary fragment header comprises a type field and a length field;

wherein the type field indicates the fragment is a binary fragment;

wherein the length field indicates a length of the binary fragment payload;

wherein the payload comprises a plurality of primitive data members in storage engine record format; and

wherein said plurality of primitive data members are all of the primitive data members of the object; and

wherein the type field indicates that the binary fragment is the only fragment of the object.